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Message Text

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15
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SCCT-01 USSS-00 SS-15 A-01 NSC-05

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /041 W
---------- 092648
R 261922Z AUG 75
FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7132
INFO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

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DEPARTMENT FOR SY, SANTO DOMINGO FOR RSO NESS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJ: SECURITY THREAT TO AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE

REF: NASSAU 1390

1. EMBASSY OFFICER CALLED ON ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF POLICE OF NEW PROVIDENCE, D. T. HANNA, ON THE AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 26 TO ASCERTAIN BACKGROUND OF SATURDAY INCIDENT AT AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE (SEE REFTEL) AND TO ENQUIRE AS TO WHY THERE HAD YET BEEN NO OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION FROM POLICE TO EMBASSY.

2. HANNA, WHO WAS PERSONALLY ON SCENE AT RESIDENCE FOLLOWING SATURDAY MORNING EVENT, ATTEMPTED TO DOWN PLAY IT SUGGESTING THAT TWO TRESPASSERS WERE, IN HIS OPINION, PROBABLY LOOKING FOR A "RIP OFF," I.E. A LIKELY BURGLARY PROSPECT. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT HE HAD DOUBTS AS TO WHETHER THE GUARD WHO REPORTED THE INCIDENT HAD ACTUALLY SEEN A SAWED-OFF SHOTGUN CITING CONFLICTING TESTIMONY FROM GUARD AND EMBASSY RESIDENCE MAID WHEN THEY WERE FIRST QUESTIONED.

3. HANNA CONFIRMED THAT CID SQUAD CARS PATROLLED THE AREA FOR THE REST OF THE DAY WITHOUT OBSERVING THE TWO MEN OR ANYTHING ELSE OUT OF THE ORDINARY. THEY DID NOT, HOWEVER,
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SPECIFICALLY TAIL MRS. WEISS' MOVEMENTS. ACCORDING TO HIM,

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THERE HAD BEEN A DELIBERATE DECISION TAKEN NOT TO INFORM MRS. WEISS OF INCIDENT SO AS NOT TO UNDULY ALARM HER IN THE AMBASSADOR'S ABSENCE. HE WAS SURPRISED, HOWEVER, THAT HIS CHIEF HAD NOT YET REPORTED MATTER TO EMBASSY -- A COURSE HE RECOMMENDED ON SATURDAY -- AND ATTRIBUTES IT TO A BUREAUCRATIC SLIP UP AT THE NEXT HIGHER ECHELON. HANNA CLOSED CONVERSATION BY EXPRESSING HIS CONFIDENCE IN EFFICIENCY OF GUARDS NOW ON DUTY AS WELL AS SUFFICIENCY OF PROTECTIVE UNITS NOW DEPLOYED. HE DID SAY, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAS ORDERED A CHECK ON THE FILE OF THE GUARD WHO REPORTED INCIDENT TO BE CERTAIN THAT HE IS QUALIFIED FOR ASSIGNMENT. HE ALSO COMMITTED HIMSELF TO RAISE BREAKDOWN IN COMMUNICATIONS WITH HIS SUPERIORS AND TO REPORT FUTURE INCIDENTS TO EMBASSY AT ONCE.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY OFFICER PLANS TO APPRISE FONMIN OFFICIAL OF INCIDENT AT ALREADY SCHEDULED MEETING LATER THIS WEEK AND TO REITERATE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO PROTECTION PROVIDED BY GCOB AT RESIDENCE AS WELL AS NEED FOR PROMPT NOTIFICATION BY POLICE TO EMBASSY OF ALL SUSPICIOUS INCIDENTS WHICH MIGHT OCCUR IN THE FUTURE. DESPITE HANNA'S ASSURANCES, EMBASSY MAINTAINS RESERVATIONS RE EFFICACY OF PRESENT SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS NOW PROVIDED BY GCOB AT RESIDENCE. IN ADDITION TO NOT BEING FULLY CONVINCED BY HANNA'S EXPLANATION OF SATURDAY INCIDENT, WE HAVE NOTED AN INCREASING LAXITY BY GUARDS OVER PAST SEVERAL MONTHS, AND WE INTEND TO MAKE OUR DISSATISFACTION CLEAR TO FOREIGN MINISTRY.
WEISS

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